



Vallejo School board approves budget cuts

By Sarah Rohrs / Times-Herald

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The Vallejo school board approved more cuts Wednesday to create a balanced budget, but saved funding for pregnant high school mothers, the district nurse, health technicians and a centralized librarian.

The 4 to 0 vote came after several teen mothers who have excelled in high school due to the program, plus staff members made emotional appeals to save funding.

Board president Raymond Victor Mommsen said the \$160,000 for the program couldn't have been better spent while other trustees made similar comments.

Likewise, trustees agreed that a district nurse and technicians were vital in administering and keeping track of student immunizations and other crucial health issues.

The cuts follow more than \$7 million in previous reductions, and include \$500,000 to the adult education program, and a variety of reductions to technology and travel expenses, textbooks and high schools to handle the transition of Hogan High School's closure.

Officials said the adult education program, which underwent steep reductions previously, will survive.

Cuts approved Wednesday night include actions outlined in a previous plan to meet a \$3.2 million target that include using about \$1.4 million in federal one-time money.

This one-time money will allow the district to continue to clean classrooms every other day, maintain class-size reductions of 28-1 in the kindergarten through third grade, and also allow the student truancy program to continue.

The board also

officially endorsed a plan to institute eight furlough days for administrators.

The district is nearing the end of its fiscal year and must submit a budget, though some items that may result in further reductions are on the negotiating table with teachers and classified staff.

The district faces at least a \$3.4 million deficit, which could double if a set of taxes fail at the state level, and at the ballot box.

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